

RTI Spreadsheet Add-in

for Microsoft® Excel®

Release Notes

Version 5.2.0



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Technical Support

Real-Time Innovations, Inc.
232 E. Java Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94089
Phone: (408) 990-7444
Email: support@rti.com
Website: <https://support.rti.com/>

Release Notes

1 Supported Platforms

This release is compatible with 32-bit Microsoft Office Excel 2013 and 2010, on all Windows architectures listed in the *RTI Connexx DDS Core Libraries Release Notes*. It is not compatible with 64-bit versions of Excel.

The installer requires Microsoft .NET Framework 3.0 or higher. If you do not already have it, the installer will open a browser window so you can download the latest version.

2 Compatibility

RTI® Spreadsheet Add-in for Microsoft Excel is an optional product designed for use with *RTI Connexx™ DDS* with the same version number.

RTI Spreadsheet Add-in for Microsoft Excel is not compatible with applications built with *RTI Data Distribution Service* 4.5e and earlier releases when communicating over shared memory. For more information, please see the Transport Compatibility section in the *RTI Connexx DDS Core Libraries Release Notes*.

In *Connexx DDS* 5.1.0, the default **message_size_max** for the UDPv4, UDPv6, TCP, Secure WAN, and shared-memory transports changed to provide better out-of-the-box performance. *RTI Spreadsheet Add-in* for Microsoft Excel 5.1.0 and higher also uses the new default value for **message_size_max**.

Consequently, *RTI Spreadsheet Add-in* for Microsoft Excel 5.1.0 and higher is not out-of-the-box compatible with applications running older versions of *Connexx DDS* or *RTI Data Distribution Service*. Please see the *RTI Connexx DDS Core Libraries Release Notes* for instructions on how to resolve this compatibility issue with older *Connexx DDS* and *RTI Data Distribution Service* applications.

2.1 Backwards Compatibility with Spreadsheets from Version 4.x



If you are upgrading from a previous release and you have Excel files that use the RTD function to subscribe to data, you must make a small change. This function has a new required parameter that specifies a type version name.

```
=RTD ("DDS2Excel.Connect", ,  
      "TYPE:<type_name>",  
      "TOPIC:<topic_name>", "TYPENAME:<type_version_name>",  
      "FIELD:<field_name1>"  
      [, "KEY:<field_name2>=<value2>" [, "KEY:<field_name3>=<value3>"]]  
      [, "MANUAL:<sheet_name>"])
```

For more information, see Appendix B in the *User's Manual*.

3 What's New in 5.2.0

3.1 Ability to Provide Type Definitions in XML

You can select the type to be published or subscribed to via an XML type definition. This can be useful when you want to be perfectly sure about which version of an extensible type the add-in will use. It is also handy to be able to publish or subscribe without having to wait for discovery to happen. For details, see Section 2.8 in the *User's Manual*.

4 What's Fixed in 5.2.0

4.1 Spreadsheet Add-in Failed to Publish Type Containing Unions

RTI Spreadsheet Add-in failed to publish types that contained unions. This problem has been resolved. The way unions are published and union discriminator values is set has also changed, including more flexibility. See Section 2.5.2.1 in the *User's Manual* for more information.

4.2 Auto-Start DDS Function

The auto-start function did not work correctly. It did not take into account the value set in the Add-in INI file.

Note: When the INI file sets `AutoStartDDS` to true (yes) and when opening a workbook from the Excel entries in the Windows Start menu's "Recent" workbooks, the action taken by Excel is to open Excel and then open the workbook. If this workbook has a configuration sheet stating that `AutoStartDDS` should be false (no), then Excel will have ignored this and will have auto-started DDS, taking into account the INI file. This is expected, because the INI file was set to auto-start.

[RTI Issue ID XLSPLG-75]

5 Known Issues

5.1 Spreadsheet Add-in does not Detect Changes to RTI Workspace Location

Connex DDS includes a script named `rticommon_config` (`rticommon_config.bat` on Windows systems, `rticommon_config.sh` on UNIX-based platforms). This script allows you to change the default directory where the RTI workspace will be created.

Spreadsheet Add-in won't detect changes to the values in this file and will continue to use the default workspace folder.

[RTI Issue ID XLSPLG-116]

5.2 Spreadsheet Add-in Appears Unresponsive in Excel 2013

When using *Spreadsheet Add-in* with Excel 2013, you may find that the Add-in bar looks unresponsive. This may be caused by have several workbooks open at the same time. If you look at the workbook that was opened first, you will see *Spreadsheet Add-in* responding as expected. This is due to a change in Microsoft Excel policy regarding process and thread management.

To open several workbooks and have *Spreadsheet Add-in* be responsive in all of them, you will need to manually force each workbook to be run in individual instances of Excel 2013. There are two ways to open individual instances of Excel: from the taskbar or desktop icon, or from a command prompt.

To open individual instances of Excel using the taskbar or desktop icon:

1. Right-click the Excel 2013 icon on your desktop or taskbar, keeping the ALT key pressed.
2. Without releasing the ALT key, click on the “Microsoft Excel 2013” option from the context menu.
3. You will see a prompt asking if you want to open Excel as a new instance. Choose YES.
4. Once the new Excel instance is up and running, open an existing workbook or create a new one.
5. Repeat these steps for each workbook you need.

To open individual instances of Excel from a command prompt:

1. From the command prompt, run `EXCEL /X &`. (The `/X` option forces the creation of a new instance.)
2. Once the new Excel instance is up and running, open an existing workbook or create a new one.
3. Repeat these steps for each workbook you need.

[RTI Issue ID DIABLO-654]

5.3 Topics of Data Types with Bit Fields not Supported

Spreadsheet Add-in cannot communicate with DataReaders or DataWriters of Topics with a data type that includes bit fields. You may see the following message, but *Spreadsheet Add-in* will continue to work normally otherwise:

```
DDS_DynamicDataTypeSupport_initialize:type not supported (bitfield member)
```

[RTI Issue ID CORE-3949]

5.4 Arrays of Sequences not Supported

Data types that include arrays of sequences are not supported. No data will be shown for such fields.

For example, this is *not* supported:

```
struct MyType {
    sequence<long> mySeqArray[100];
};
```

A workaround for the above code is:

```
struct MySeq {
    sequence<long> mySeq;
};
struct MyType {
    MySeq mySeqArray[100];
};
```

[RTI Issue ID XLSPLG-8]

5.5 Toolbar not Removed During Uninstallation

After uninstalling *Spreadsheet Add-in* for Microsoft Excel, the toolbar remains in the Add-Ins tab. You may remove it manually. For example, if you have Excel 2010 or 2013:

1. From Excel's File tab, select **Options, Add-ins**.
2. Next to **Manage:**, select **COM Add-ins**, then click **Go...**
3. Select **RTI Spreadsheet Addin for Microsoft Excel**, then click **Remove**.

[RTI Issue ID XLSPLG-4]

5.6 Add-in can Only Publish/Subscribe to Same Version of an Extensible Type

When using the XML type feature, the add-in can only publish/subscribe to the same version of an extensible type. For example, you cannot publish ShapeType and subscribe to ShapeTypeExtended. Only one type version of the XML type can be used per Excel instance. The XML type feature is described in Section 2.8 of the *User's Manual*.

[RTI Issue ID EDDY-1209]